

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A railroad e-clip removal system, comprising:

an outer tube with an outer cutout;

an inner tube slidably positioned within a lumen of said outer tube, wherein said inner tube includes an inner cutout and an engaging portion, wherein said engaging portion is engageable to an e-clip; and

an actuator unit attached to said outer tube, wherein said actuator unit includes a shaft member that is attached to said inner tube for extending/retracting said inner tube within said outer tube.

2. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said engaging

3. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said engaging
pin is positioned near a rear portion of said outer cutout when said inner tube is
ejected.

4. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said engaging portion extends below said outer cutout for engaging an e-clip.

5. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said outer tube and said outer tube have a similar cross sectional shape.

1
2
3 6. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, including a plurality of legs
4 attached to said outer tube.
5
6

7 7. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 6, wherein one of said legs is
8 engageable to a tubular support member during removal of an e-clip.
9
10

11 8. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 6, wherein one of said legs is
12 shorter than the remaining legs and has a flanged portion for being positioned upon a
13 rail foot of a rail member.
14
15

16 9. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said outer tube is
17 longer than said inner tube.
18
19

20 10. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said outer cutout
21 and said inner cutout are similar in position and size.
22
23

24 11. A railroad e-clip removal system, comprising:
25 an outer tube with an outer cutout;
26 a support structure having a handle member attached to said outer tube;
27 an inner tube slidably positioned within a lumen of said outer tube, wherein
28 said inner tube includes an inner cutout and an engaging portion, wherein said
29 engaging portion is engageable to an e-clip; and

1 an actuator unit attached to said outer tube, wherein said actuator unit includes
2 a shaft member that is attached to said inner tube for extending/retracting said inner
3 tube within said outer tube.

4

5

6 12. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said engaging
7 portion is a lower rear edge of said inner cutout.

8

9

10 13. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said engaging
11 portion is positioned near a rear portion of said outer cutout when said inner tube is
12 retracted.

13

14

15 14. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said engaging
16 portion extends below said outer cutout for engaging an e-clip.

17

18

19 15. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said outer tube
20 and said outer tube have a similar cross sectional shape.

21

22

23 16. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, including a plurality of
24 legs attached to said outer tube.

25

26

27 17. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 16, wherein one of said legs is
28 engageable to a tubular support member during removal of an e-clip.

29

1

2 18. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 16, wherein one of said legs is
3 shorter than the remaining legs and has a flanged portion for being positioned upon a
4 rail foot of a rail member.

5

6

7 19. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said outer tube is
8 longer than said inner tube.

9

10

11 20. A method of operating a railroad e-clip removal apparatus for removing an
12 e-clip, wherein said railroad e-clip removal apparatus is comprised of an outer tube
13 with an outer cutout, an inner tube slidably positioned within a lumen of said outer
14 tube, wherein said inner tube includes an inner cutout and an engaging portion,
15 wherein said engaging portion is engageable to an e-clip, and an actuator unit attached
16 to said outer tube, wherein said actuator unit includes a shaft member that is attached
17 to said inner tube for extending/retracting said inner tube within said outer tube, said
18 method comprising the steps of:

19 (a) positioning said railroad e-clip removal apparatus about an e-clip
20 positioned within a tubular support member, wherein said e-clip is positioned beneath
21 said inner cutout; and

22 (b) extending said actuator unit so that said inner tube extends forwardly
23 within said outer tube and wherein said engaging portion engages said e-clip for
24 removing said e-clip from said tubular support member.